

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/IE2004/000046

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G01N27/22 G01R27/26

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G01N G01R

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 1 164 380 A (RECHNER IND ELEKTRONIK GMBH) 19 December 2001 (2001-12-19) cited in the application the whole document -----	1,4
A	GB 2 087 084 A (MESTRA AG) 19 May 1982 (1982-05-19) page 1, lines 47-59 page 2, lines 35-37 page 4, lines 20-44 -----	1
A	EP 1 336 838 A (ROMANI FOUD DR) 20 August 2003 (2003-08-20) column 3, lines 45-53 column 4, lines 19-27 column 4, lines 51-57; figure 1 ----- -/-	1

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "8" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 November 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

26.01.2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 714 998 A (WHEELER TRACY EUGENE) 3 February 1998 (1998-02-03) column 1, line 66 - column 2, line 44 column 2, line 63 - column 3, line 54 figure 1 -----	1, 4

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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

see annex

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-4

A capacitor sensing inspection system, inter alia comprising the features of the characterizing portion of claim 1.

2. claims: 5-11

An inspection system, inter alia comprising a stop movable between an inactive position and an active position, wherein in the active position the stop prevents the progress of items along a conveyor belt, a control system responsive to a user input to place said inspection system in a teach mode, wherein upon receipt of the user input, the control system activates the stop and upon the exiting of the inspection system from the teach mode causes the stop to move to the inactive position.

3. claims: 12-17

An inspection system wherein, inter alia, a first capacitor is positioned remotely from a conveyor belt.

4. claims: 18-21

An inspection system, inter alia comprising a second sensor being a light sensitive sensor and having an associated light source, wherein the light sensitive sensor is positioned on one side of a transport mechanism and the light source is positioned on an opposing side of the transport mechanism along an axis which is inclined relative to the longitudinal axis of the transport mechanism, such that the second sensor is disposed to provide an indication of the presence of an inlay card in an optical disk package.

5. claims: 22-23

An inspection system, inter alia comprising a first "pattern\colour" recognition sensor for indicating a reference "pattern\colour" in a package, and a capacitor sensing system, wherein the first "pattern\colour" recognition sensor is used to indicate the correct presence of printed matter on one side of the package and the capacitor sensing system is used to indicate the correct contents in a package.

6. claims: 24-30

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

An inspection system, inter alia comprising a second sensor configured to provide a continuous output representing a pass or fail status for the contents of a test location, output means adapted to provide an output indicative of the output of the second sensor, wherein the output means is adapted to provide an immediate pass output if a pass status is provided by the second sensor and in the event of a fail status is further adapted to continue to test for a pass status from the second sensor for a first delay time.

7. claims: 31-39

A discard mechanism comprising an opening for receiving a package, the opening being positioned between first and second belts of a conveyor belt system, an arm movable between a rest position external to the conveyor belt system and an active position, such that when the discard mechanism is activated, the arm is moved from the rest position to the active position displacing a package from one of the belts, thus allowing the package to fall through and be discarded through the opening.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
EP 1164380	A	19-12-2001	DE EP	10027507 C1 1164380 A2		03-01-2002 19-12-2001
GB 2087084	A	19-05-1982	DE JP US	3143114 A1 57131072 A 4459541 A		15-07-1982 13-08-1982 10-07-1984
EP 1336838	A	20-08-2003	EP	1336838 A2		20-08-2003
US 5714998	A	03-02-1998		NONE		